



## MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER, 2008 AT 7.30 PM, IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, VILLAGE HALL, PLUMPTON GREEN

**PRESENT:** Mr R Taylor Chairman  
Mr K Speirs Vice Chairman  
Mrs B Watson  
Mrs K Wride  
Mrs. C Eastwood  
Mrs S Angel  
Mr T Thompsett  
Mrs S Akers  
4 Members of the public  
Mr T Hawthorne

**APOLOGIES:** Mrs C Nicholson

**MINUTES:** The minutes of a meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2008 were signed as a true record, with the following amendments: Page 2 Water Report. Mrs Nicholson had responded on behalf of VAP; she had heard about report from SOCS. Page 3 VAP – Mrs Angel joined VAP team.  
Page 4: Jumble sale at Hall for the Playing Field on 8<sup>th</sup> November. Tree Warden, delete Mr Wynn.  
The minutes of planning meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2008 was signed as a true record.

Planning: LW/08/1177 Proposed erection of single storey cabin in Plumpton Wood, Beresford Lane for Mr Wilson. Several residents from adjoining properties attended the meeting, most of whom had sent letters of representation to LDC Planning. Six letters of objection had been received.

The Parish Council strongly objected to this and recommended refusal with the following points:

1. Plumpton Wood is a designated Site of Nature Conservation Interest, and further development would impinge and destroy the delicate cycle of life which exists within the wood.
2. It is a registered ancient woodland site, which are becoming a rare commodity and there is a responsibility to preserve them for their flora and fauna. There are many rare and protected species of trees, plants and wildlife in this wood.
3. The wood is in five sections with five different land owners, though the true identity should be thought of as a single entity. Any development within the wood could damage the ecosystems within it. Waste, noise and fires will interfere with the heartland area of the woodland.
4. The building of a cabin could set a precedent for up to 5 cabins (for five owners) and these could be used as holiday cottages or other development.
5. There are already 6-8 foundation blocks for this construction in place. Surely this should be a retrospective planning issue? Why was there no enforcement when there is evidence that LDC planning was told of this development and told adjoining owners told that nothing could be done until an application was received.
6. The planning application form was incorrectly filled in – see Section 14 Biodiversity (a) should be yes, b) should be yes. 16 Trees and Hedges Section No 2 should be yes. 13. Assessment of Flood Risk No 2 should be yes (within 20 metres of a water course)
7. The area is very near to an existing natural water channel which could lead to contamination of ground waters from the site; water flows into ponds further downstream before entering the Ouse. Has the Environment Agency be consulted about this? If a soakaway was to be installed as detailed in the application, this would have a detrimental effect on the whole water course, which at present takes only clean rainwater.

8. Concerns by Plumpton Parish Council tree warden that mature trees, mainly oak could be felled to make space for this construction.

PC would ask that LDC Tree Officer Mr Wynn be asked to inspect the site with regard to tree issues.

Mr Taylor adjourned the meeting for ten minutes while Councillors were asked to read papers relating to the budget, Draft of Clerk's new Contract, Estimate document and extract of Minutes of SLCC regarding Quality Council.

The Clerk presented a draft of a review of her salary, grade and hours of work. A vote took place,; all Councillors were in agreement that this should be accepted (with a few minor amendments) to commence on April 2009. Mr Leggo would be asked to prepare the final document.

Quality Council Status was discussed, and it was thought this should be reconsidered when there would be a new Council after the next election. All Councillors voted in favour of this. Research had been done by several Councillors, who indicated that there was no advantage having QC status when trying to obtain grants, and that attaining the status took up a lot of time and work, which inevitably fell on the Clerk. Extracts from minutes from SLCC indicated that 'the vast majority of councils see no advantage whatsoever from being Quality Councils, and probably a large number of Councils would not be renewing their QC status'.

The Budget for 2009/2010 was discussed. Some discussion had taken place at the Finance Meeting.

Mr Speirs and Mr Satchell had presented their budgets for the Playing Field and Village Hall. Both had been reduced by a small amount.

Changes to Admin Budget: The Council were mindful that the present financial situation in the country should be considered when increasing the Council's budget. There would be inevitable increases in Clerk's salary, insurance (as the Admin section had increased though PF and VH had been substantially reduced), subscriptions and charges.

The Clerk explained the Members Allowances scheme, and it was decided to keep this item on the budget format, but not to include a figure for the next financial year, but to review it each year. Training/Course fees would also be reviewed on an annual basis, the coming year would not include a budget for this though the Clerk would be funded for one course during the year at a cost of approximately £40.

It was agreed to consolidate several items under village care – these would include Footpaths, Dog bin emptying, Bus Shelter maintenance, tree inspection (and possible tree surgery as a result of the survey), Skatepark and Play Area maintenance (which would include a sum for any repairs as a result of vandalism – this should be explained (in Parish Magazine and Minutes) that this sum is for a specific use

Mrs Eastwood asked if the dog bins could be emptied less frequently to cut costs, but the Clerk thought that would not be allowed by LDC, and some bins are used to a greater extent and less frequent emptying would not be suitable.

It was agreed to keep the S137 payments at the same amount, and those groups wishing to apply for S137 (grants) should apply in writing to the Council a practice used in the past, at the beginning of the financial year.

On Auditor's recommendation 25% of PC expenditure should be put on reserve. It was decided that this figure was too high and that £2000 be put into an NSB account as reserves, and a top up of this would be considered on an annual basis.

Clerk would arrange the estimates in format for discussion and ratification at the November meeting.

LDC requested a precept figure by the end of January, 2009.

## MATTERS ARISING:

**Half Moon Licence hearing** - This had taken place. Mr Moorhouse had contacted Clerk with comments made at hearing. The application was granted subject to conditions.

**Land adjacent to Old Brickworks** - It was suggested that Mr Leggo be approached to see if he was able to talk to LDC planning about this. Clerk had contacted him at the outset to ask his advice and he had said that he could arrange an independent agricultural specialist for advice. It was thought the issue had gone quiet as far as the residents affected, and they should be asked for an updated situation. A meeting was planned; there was a scheme available called Planning Aid which was similar to Legal Aid.

**ACTION:** Mr Speirs would speak to Mr Leggo, and residents would be asked of their current position on the matter.

**Village Green** - Clerk had been contacted about the mowing on the village green by a resident who felt a good cut had been done before the village fete but that recent cuts were patchy and the whole green not always done at the same time. The rest of the green is always very well maintained.

**ACTION:** Clerk to contact Mr Woolgar to ask if the whole of the green could be mowed at one time.

**Proposed Pharmacy at South Chailey surgery** - A meeting had been arranged for 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2008 by Newick Parish Council; No Councillor was available to attend.

**ACTION:** Clerk to ask for notes or minutes on above meeting.

**Fly Tipping** – The items at the Ferrings had been removed.

**Naming of new development at Plumpton Garage Site** – This had still not been decided; developer was insistent the road was to be called Smithys Close, rather than the PC's choice of Hills Side Close. It would mean matter would have to be referred to Magistrates Court if an agreement could not be reached between the PC and Developer. Mr Taylor suggested that Ms Dugard LDC made the decision, as this was obviously a stalemate situation.

**Highways** – Half Moon Junction: Mr Johnson said that he had drawn up a sign for possible implementation, but since then, the issue of accesses at the Half Moon meant that the design needed altering and he was liaising with Development Control regarding this.

Holly tree – this was being looked at.

Setts – Clerk received call asking where setts were as they could only find one set that needed attention; Clerk asked Highways to contact Mr Brooke who had a list.

Pothole at Half Moon layby – rectified.

**Insurance** – Clerk had checked insurance cover for public liability. Currently £6m on village hall, £6m on Pavilion and £5m for PC.

**ACTION:** Clerk to get quote to increase PC's amount to £10m. There was £500,00 cover for Trustees.

**Smell from manholes western side of Bevern Bridge** – Southern Water that residents report this problem direct to them when it occurred.

**Trees on the verge near Rylands** – These had been moved.

**Trees** - A tree survey is required for insurance purposes. Quote from Mr Rose, qualified arboriculturalist for £600.

It was understood that Mr Wynn LDCTree Officer could do the work at a cost of £24 an hour and would require detail plans.

**ACTION:** Clerk to ask Mr Wynn how long this would take and arrange survey and obtain plans.

**Car repairing on highway** - This had not taken place recently.

**Grant Funding available** – Clerk had heard from Mr Moore Children’s Services ESCC about possible funding available. Clerk had forwarded this to Mr Hawthorne (VAP) and Mrs Eastwood (Playing Field).

**South East Water Boxes** – Loose plates had been rectified in Station Road. Others were reported but no action taken to date.

**Final Building Inspection – The Firs** – This had still not taken place. LDC Building Regulation Department said that the onus for requesting a final inspection rests with the applicant so nothing could be done until this happens

**Bus Timetables** - Two bus timetable cases had been cleaned and timetables replaced at the Riddens bus shelter and those at the Plough had also been cleaned.

**Riddens Garages** – In response to residents enquiries (as these garages are now for sale) Clerk had contacted LDC Mr Hill about potential planning issues. Any application for change of use or redevelopment would be treated on its own merits and judged against established planning policy. A redevelopment could be a possibility if it is linked to a specific development through a legal agreement or condition.

Several residents of the Paddocks had sent letters of complaint about a large vehicle (lorry) which is parked in the road, and it is alleged that a mobile car repair business is being conducted from the vehicle, including reconstructing motor bikes and mopeds; there are movements of the vehicle at unsociable hours.

The Paddocks is a private road and there are no parking signs displayed; there are several other cars including the lorry outside the property mentioned.

**ACTION:** Clerk to contact relevant authorities to report these issues.

**Footpaths** – Response from ROW:

Footpaths 32, 35 and 37b fall with the AONB – South Downs Committee will respond.

Footpath 12b – dog latch can only be installed with landowner or tenant’s permission.

East Chiltington 6a/b – Colleague deals with ploughing and cropping and this will be passed on to her.

East Chiltington 8b to bridleway 30 – no record of permissive path anywhere in this area.

New Countryside Ranger for South Downs Joint Committee (Phillippa Morrison-Price) sent e mail of introduction. Comments: Footpath 30 – not able to find crossing marked 4 on map, but stile needing to be replaced between a grass field and mown land at Plumpton Place next to bridge – confirmation was required that this was the stile.

**Car near Dragons Green** – Highways had inspected this problem and it is believed that the car belongs to an elderly lady who parks there for easy access to her property. Highways will keep an eye on the situation.

Confirmation from Ipsos MORi National Survey of Third Section Organisations questionnaire completed regarding Village Hall and sent in by Clerk.

## **MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

Mrs Watson reported that the phone box at the Plough had been vandalised.

**ACTION:** Clerk to report to BT.

Mrs Angel reported there was a blocked drain at the end of East View Fields near the telegraph pole with brown dirty water coming from it.

**ACTION:** Clerk to report this to Highways

Trustees of Hall. Mr Thompsett had raised this. Mr Taylor said he could remember telling Village Hall committee members at some stage that they were Trustees for the Hall. When the Hall was built Clerk and Mr Taylor had contacted Mrs Swan who had looked at the issue of Trustees/Parish Councillors and she had said that the new status created by the new hall being designated a charity, was in order.

**ACTION:** Clerk to check with insurance company to see if the cover for trustees liability covers Trustees/Parish Councillors.

Mr Thompsett thought that more use could be made of SALC as the annual fee was quite high. Mr Taylor said that the Council used it when it was necessary over certain issues and that the Clerk always refers to SALC when there were queries. Mrs Eastwood had planted bulbs in the village, and she was thanked for this. Mr Speirs reported that he had noted a C and S coach which was parking in lots of places along Station Road; the layby by the bridge, opposite the Winning Post etc taking up three parking spaces. This was a nuisance, and was happening on a regular basis.

**ACTION:** Clerk to contact C and S (Geoff Shaw – Manager, ESCC, Transport, and Mrs Stroude).

**SANDPIT** - Mrs Nicholson sent in a report:

1. The earth bund had been moved back eastwards so the area of sand extraction at the rear of the site is now larger (as envisaged in the original plan).
2. There has been little lorry movement, however reports had been received from residents of movements through the village (sometimes empty, sometimes loaded) – some have been through during school closing time.
3. Mr Nicholson had written to Mr Dudman with PC's request to avoid school times and had requested a meeting with him in early November.

It was reported that two lorries, fully loaded, uncovered were seen on 15/10 at 8,30 am when the walking bus was going through the village.

**ACTION:** Clerk to ask Mr Nicholson if no response comes back from Mr Dudman, to request a response in writing from him.

Clerk to report above mentioned incident on 15/10. Mr Nicholson to ask East Chilington PC if anyone is interested in being on the Sandpit committee.

**VILLAGE ACTION PLAN** – Mrs Nicholson had circulated an appendix to minutes of a sub committee meeting of the Plan containing a summary of the progress being made by each team.

Mr Speirs made comments on this:

Road Safety – VAP would like to contact other PC's who had undertaken traffic calming. PC agreed to this. Mrs Wride asked whether the committee should have contacted a County Councillor for the area concerned regarding road safety without also informing Mrs Stroude the County Councillor for Plumpton; she requested that Mrs Stroude should be informed. Mr Hawthorne said he would contact her.

Several Councillors were concerned about the VAP committees approaching ESCC or LDC on certain matters without permission of the PC.

Mrs Akers asked should data be obtained about speeding through the village before action was taken, using SID? SID had not been used for some time. It was broken and there was a lack of volunteers to operate it.

Mr Speirs explained that everything was in a fact finding stage at the moment.

He had spoken to Mr Brooke about widening the pavement from the shop to the village green, and Mr Brooke said he could see no reason to rule it out. This might be part of a raft of measures when further research had been done.

Public Transport - A response to the DOT's Rail Franchise Consultation Document' had been published with a very tight deadline and it had not reached the PC in time for a response. A member of the VAP team had responded, and PC transport representative was advised of the action immediately.

Improvement in transport services to hospitals/doctors – VAP team would like to meet Normal Baker MP. Should Parish Councillors go to that? It was agreed Mrs Watson or Mr Speirs would go.

Footpaths – Team would like to approach Westmeston PC who had undertaken a significant project regarding a possible path from the village to the Plough to ask their advice on this. PC agreed to this.

Facilities - Teams to speak to the schools regarding needs for leisure facilities and encouraging young people to use local groups.

Mrs Wride thought Chailey School should be contacted as well.

Mr Hawthorne said he would go to see the Heads of the Schools.

Facilities – A Sunday School had been started on the second and third Sundays of each month.

**FINANCE:**

The balances at the end of July were Admin £4731.02, Village Hall £15,037.48, Playing Field £11,582.38. The Audit had been signed off. Attention was drawn to lack of reserves; a guideline was that 25% of expenditure should be allocated for reserves.

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

Mrs Watson reported that the ticket office at the station was open from 0545 and 1145 and was very smart.  
For some weeks there have been problems with the buses, people have been left at bus stops and buses have gone earlier than scheduled.  
**ACTION:** Clerk to write to Country Liner with copy to ESCC Transport.

**ENVIRONMENT**

**VILLAGE CARE - LITTER - NTR  
RECYCLING – NTR**

**HIGHWAYS -**

Mr Speirs had walked round the village with Mr Brooke; there had been a request to fill in the ditches outside Sunnyside and Acorns and Mr Brooke said he would look at this. The turning circle opposite North Barns Lane was also looked at; it was suggested yellow lines should be put there as on the opposite side of the road.  
Mrs Eastwood asked why the layby could not be filled in.  
There has been problems with the BT boxes where the disabled access work had been done. Mr Brooke would ask BT to rectify this.  
Crack at 26 Westgate – Mr Brooke said something would be done about this.  
Holly Tree and overgrown hedges – Mr Speirs would speak to one owner of property on Station Road with an overgrown hedge and Mr Brooke would contact others.  
**ACTION:** Clerk to ask in Parish Magazine for residents to cut back hedges particularly as the nights are drawing in and they could be a hazard to those walking along the footway in the dark.  
Mrs Wride said she had met the VAP team regarding voluntary speed reduction scheme.  
Further 'Kill your speed' signs had been placed in the village. Mrs Angel said she did not like these, and they were not in keeping with a rural village. Mrs Wride said they were only temporary.

**POLICING AND  
NEIGHBOURHOOD  
WATCH**

Mrs Angel reported that: 18/9 vehicles broken into on the site of Plumpton Racecourse causing extensive damage.  
23/9 Vehicle deliberately damaged on Station Road near the Fountain.  
30/9 Reports of males driving cars causing anti-social behaviour in late evenings and early mornings in Plumpton.  
1/10 Serious collision on the A272 near Chailey Heritage School; one person serious injured and airlifted to hospital in London.  
It was thought that there had been a lack of police presence in the village in recent months.  
**ACTION:** Clerk to report this to Sgt Macdonald.

**FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS – NTR**

**REPORT OF TREE WARDEN – NTR**

**PLANNING:**

The following applications have been approved:  
LW/08/0743 Plumpton College. Planning Application for Section 73A Retrospective application for the retention of a temporary site construction compound with temporary safety, welfare and storage facilities, security fencing and temporary earth bund screen.  
LW/08/0808 Field Adjacent to the Old Brickworks and the Plough Pub. Section 73a retrospective application for the retention of a loose chalk surface.  
LW/08/0884 Jupiters Oak, South Road. Formation of vehicular and pedestrian access.  
Determination under Delegated Powers: LW/08/0807 Land adjacent to the Old Brickworks. Section 73A Retrospective application for the retention of an access to field in south east corner.  
Clerk passed round LDC letter Changes to Planning System – permitted development rights for householders, for all Councillors to read.

## HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT

### **NTR**

#### VILLAGE HALL:

Mr Taylor reported:

Lightning Conductor test had been carried out and everything was in order. Clerk had contacted LDC about change of venue for polling station for next year's elections. She had chased this up and elections were to be in June so it was not thought to be a problem to change the venue as the Plumpton Players would be using the hall in May.

It was reported that skateboarders were using the road outside the hall for skateboarding. The WI seat had been completed. £860 had been raised at the jumble sale.

#### PLAYING FIELD:

Mr Speirs reported that a meeting had been held on 13<sup>th</sup> October. Extracts from the Minutes were:

Most of the Pavilion had been redecorated by the Football Club.

Grant application had been made for a hard standing area for netball/basketball.

Mr Smith had agreed to contact someone to remove graffiti

It was agreed that the recycling area should remain.

It was felt that maintenance items such as dog bin emptying, grass cutting and maintenance to play area/skateboard area should not be covered by funds from rents, particularly as work is done by clubs etc at reduced or at no cost.

Car park is full of commuters most week days, and options were considered how to improve the car park.

Jumble Sale to raise funds for the Pavilion/Playing Field would be held at the Village Hall on 8/11.

It was suggested a fun day take place in summer 2009.

It was suggested that a future PC meeting be held at the playing field. This would happen in December 2008.

## LOCAL BUSINESSES

### **NTR**

## YOUTH COUNCIL

### **NTR**

## REPORT OF CLERK

Clerk presented to the Council: AIRS AGM on 7/11/08, Programme South Downs Council for Voluntary Service, SALC Annual Report and Accounts 2007/08, Town and Parish Standard Board September 2008, ESCC Health Scrutiny in East Sussex Newsletter 22, East Sussex Town and Parish Emergency Planning Conference 28/10.08, Red Cross new service at Sainsbury's Newhaven, Communities and Local Government The making and enforcement of bylaws, East Chilmington PC Minute September 2008, Development Communities Project News, Wicksteed Playscapes Catalogue, District Link Autumn Edition, Gopak catalogue, Fit Focus Newsletter, SLCC Forms and Records and Registers for Local Councils, Safer Communities Newsletter, Applause information – Clerk to send to Mr Carden, Plumpton Players.

Partial Review of the Draft South East Plan: somewhere to live: planning for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople in the South East. Mr Taylor had attended meeting, and a list of sites were available, Plumpton was not on the list. A new questionnaire had been submitted due to insensitive questions on the previous one.

**ACTION:** PC had sent in amended questionnaire.

News from the School: Children were congratulated and given a certificate at a celebration assembly. The original bell from the old school is now being used. The outdoor stage was installed over the summer. Thanks were expressed for ensuring dogs remain under control outside the school gates. There is an opportunity for parents to come and meet their child's new teacher. Parents were asked to make sure their children do not ride scooters and bikes inside the school premises.

A decision has been taken to decommission the swimming pool due to community efforts not being able to pursue a scheme to keep it open

A Conservation Area Advisory consultation document from LDC was given to Mrs Akers for her to respond to if she thought it was appropriate.

Letter from ESCC regarding revised school crossing patrol policy which has been drafted to ensure that the CC always follows current best practice in the provision of school crossing patrol service.

LDC : Consultation on Draft Street Naming and Numbering Policy document. Any comments should be sent to Ms Dugard LDC. Clerk to respond that PC thought that recent issues concerning PC about naming new development had been a rather confusion situation, as PC's are consulted and their ideas had been rejected by the developer.

Planning Application Decisions: It was agreed these should be included in the Parish Magazine article.  
Clerk asked that Councillors that if they had time to log onto the NALC/SALC websites from time to time to view Legal Topic Notes and courses available. She would alert Councillors if there were any items of special interest.

Mrs Wride had provided Councillors with proposals to alter the PC meeting structure. It was agreed that items would be dealt with by relevant chairpersons of each committee and not under matters arising which was for the Clerk to report on outcomes of matters raised at the previous meeting where responses had been received.

It was agreed to alter the agenda slightly as follows:

Finance. Public Transport. Highways, Environment, Policing and Neighbourhood Watch. Planning and Housing. Village Hall. Playing Field. Report of Clerk.

VAP – to include items when there was something to say about sections included in the plan.

Minutes/Notes of meetings to be circulated for VAP, Sandpit, LDALC, RVRC so Councillors could read these prior to the meeting.

These amendments were agreed by the Council and the format would be adopted at the next meeting.

The January PC meeting would take place on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2009 to accommodate the Pantomime.

The December meeting would take place at the Pavilion.

THESE MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM. THEY WILL BE RATIFIED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL AT THE MEETING ON 18<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2008.

**CHAIRMAN**